

## UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

### SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

#### STATEMENT ON FACULTY- STUDENT CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN STUDENT ASSESSMENT

**Date of last review:** March 2014

**Revised:** March 2023

**Approved by the Curriculum Committee:** March 2023

**Next revision:** 2028

#### PURPOSE

The Doctor of Medicine Program (the MD Program), Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University recognizes that during faculty tenure there may be enrollment of a student in a Course or Clinical Rotation with whom they have a familial or personal relationship. Examples include but are not limited to serving as a course chair, instructor, preceptor, research mentor or small group facilitator.

This creates the potential for a conflict of interest (COI) in student assessment or teaching dynamics. The principle of transparency in the MD Program must be upheld. To avoid any perceived COI issues, such relationships must be avoided or be readily identified as at arm's length.

For the purposes of this statement, relevant relationships will refer to:

- Spousal; Siblings; Parents; Grandparents; Children and Family as defined by the legal statutes of the Province of Ontario
- Providers of sensitive health, psychiatric, or psychological care and counselling
- Any other close relationship that may be seen to confer advantage or disadvantage to a student

#### STATEMENT

The following will guide decision making for potential COI in a student learning experience. Given the infrequency of this issue, all decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Vice Dean Undergraduate Medical Education (VD UME) or designate.

Faculty contributing to any course or rotation teaching and/or leadership in the MD Program with relevant relationships with admitted students **must disclose** this information to the VD UME in advance of the academic year or immediately during same year if faculty are contracted to teach and/or supervise in the MD Program mid-year.

Any faculty who holds a decision-making position that may be viewed as a conflict may not be the sole:

- Course Chair or Coordinator; Rotation Director; Academic Director; DE Site lead; Clinical Electives lead; Research mentor; small group facilitator; counselor or remediation

supervisor

Should a potential conflict as outlined above arise, the following steps are to be taken expeditiously:

- The faculty member is to notify the VD UME immediately
- The UME Office will assign the student, if possible, to another small group or learning experience
- If not possible, a designated member of the relevant course committee will oversee all aspects of the student assessments
- If the faculty member's role is solely delivering large group learning for which there is no assessment, no change will be required

At no time will providers of sensitive health, psychiatric, or psychological care and counseling for medical students be able to assess a student's academic performance or take part in decisions regarding their advancement and/or graduation.

The VD UME will be the final decision maker regardless of campus.

Should the VD UME have a Conflict of Interest, all responsibilities of the Vice Dean as they relate to that specific student will be transferred to the Associate Dean, Windsor.